

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 194

Supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. FALLIN, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. REYES, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. WU, Mr. FARR, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. NADLER of New York, and Mrs. TAUSCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

Whereas there are over 3,000,000,000 women in the world, representing 51 percent of the world's population;

Whereas women continue to play the prominent role in caring for families within the home as well as serving as economic earners;

Whereas women worldwide are participating in the world of diplomacy and politics, contributing to the growth of

economies, and improving the quality of the lives of their families, communities, and nations;

Whereas women leaders have recently made significant strides including the 2009 appointment of Johanna Sigurdardottir as the first female Prime Minister of Iceland, the 2007 election of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi as the first female Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the 2006 election of Michelle Bachelet as the first female President of Chile, the 2006 election of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as the President of Liberia, the first female President in Africa's history, and the 2005 election of Angela Merkel as the first female Chancellor of Germany, who also served as the second woman to chair a G8 summit in 2007;

Whereas women account for 80 percent of the world's 70 million micro-borrowers, 75 percent of the 28,000 United States loans supporting small business in Afghanistan are given to women, and 12 women are chief executive officers of Fortune 500 companies;

Whereas in the United States women are graduating from high school at higher rates and earning bachelor's degrees or higher degrees at greater rates than men with 88 percent of women between the ages of 25 and 29 having obtained a high school diploma and 31 percent of women between the ages of 25 and 29 earning a bachelor's degree or higher degree;

Whereas despite tremendous gains over the past 20 years, women still face political and economic obstacles, struggle for basic rights, face the threat of discrimination, and are targets of violence all over the world;

Whereas worldwide women remain vastly underrepresented in national and local assemblies, accounting on average for less than 10 percent of the seats in parliament, except for in East Asia where the figure is approximately 18 to 19 percent, and women do not hold more than 8 percent of the ministerial positions in developing regions;

Whereas women work $\frac{2}{3}$ of the world's working hours, produce half of the world's food, yet earn only 1 percent of the world's income and own less than 1 percent of the world's property;

Whereas female managers earned less than their male counterparts in the 10 industries that employed the vast majority of all female employees in the United States between 1995 and 2000;

Whereas 70 percent of the 1,300,000,000 people living in poverty around the world are women and children;

Whereas $\frac{2}{3}$ of the 876,000,000 illiterate individuals worldwide are women, $\frac{2}{3}$ of the 125,000,000 school-aged children who are not attending school worldwide are girls, and girls are less likely to complete school than boys, according to the United States Agency for International Development;

Whereas worldwide women account for half of all cases of HIV/AIDS, approximately 42,000,000, and in countries with high HIV prevalence, young women are at a higher risk than young men of contracting HIV;

Whereas globally, each year over 500,000 women die during childbirth and pregnancy;

Whereas domestic violence causes more deaths and disability among women between the ages of 15 and 44 than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and war;

Whereas worldwide, at least 1 out of every 3 women and girls have been beaten in her lifetime;

Whereas at least 1 out of every 6 women and girls in the United States has been sexually abused in her lifetime, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas worldwide 130,000,000 girls and young women have been subjected to female genital mutilation, and it is estimated that 10,000 girls are at risk of being subjected to this practice in the United States;

Whereas illegal trafficking in women and children for forced labor, domestic servitude, or sexual exploitation involves between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 women and children each year, of whom 50,000 are transported into the United States, according to the Congressional Research Service and the Department of State;

Whereas between 75 and 80 percent of the world's 27,000,000 refugees are women and children;

Whereas in times and places of conflict and war, women and girls continue to be the focus of extreme violence and intimidation and face tremendous obstacles to legal recourse and justice;

Whereas March 8 has become known as International Women's Day for the last century, and is a day on which people, often divided by ethnicity, language, culture, and income, come together to celebrate a common struggle for women's equality, justice, and peace; and

Whereas the people of the United States should be encouraged to participate in International Women's Day: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) supports the goals of International Women’s
2 Day;

3 (2) recognizes and honors the women in the
4 United States and in other countries who have
5 fought and continue to struggle for gender equality
6 and women’s rights;

7 (3) reaffirms its commitment to ending dis-
8 crimination and violence against women and girls, to
9 ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls,
10 and to pursuing policies that guarantee the basic
11 rights of women and girls both in the United States
12 and in other countries; and

13 (4) encourages the President to—

14 (A) reaffirm his commitment to pursue
15 policies to protect the health and rights of
16 women and girls; and

17 (B) issue a proclamation calling upon the
18 people of the United States to observe Inter-
19 national Women’s Day with appropriate pro-
20 grams and activities.

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